

EX Order 10207

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WE

Text of Truman Order and

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23—Following is the text of the Executive Order issued today establishing the President's Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights and Mr. Truman's accompanying statement:

Text of Order

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

(1)

There is hereby established in the Executive Office of the President a commission to be known as the President's Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights, which shall be composed of a chairman, a vice chairman, and seven other members, all of whom shall be designated by the President.

(2)

(a) The commission shall make a thorough study of the problem of providing for the internal security of the United States and at the same time protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals. The commission shall consider how this problem should be met by Government action and by private action. Among other things, the commission shall examine the laws, practices, and procedures concerning protection against treason, sabotage, espionage, and other matters affecting the internal security of the Nation; and the commission shall consider the operation of and any need for changes in such laws, practices, and procedures.

The subjects considered by the commission shall include the Government employe loyalty program and the Government employe security program. The commission shall also consider the need for protecting individuals from unwarranted attacks and from unwarranted infringement of their rights and liberties in the name of security.

(b) The commission shall make a report to the President of its findings and conclusions (to be preceded by such interim reports as it may find desirable), and shall make such recommendations for legislative, administrative, or other actions as it deems appropriate.

(3)

In carrying out its functions under this order, the commission shall prescribe its own rules of procedure. The commission may hold such public hearings and hear such witnesses as it may determine, and it may, in connection with matters relating to individual cases in possession of any executive department or agency.

All executive departments and

agencies of the Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the commission in its work and to furnish the commission such information and assistance, not inconsistent with law, as it may require in the performance of its functions. The commission shall take appropriate measures to protect the security or confidential character of any security-classified information or information of a confidential nature submitted to it or examined by it.

(4)

The expenditures of the commission shall be paid out of an allotment made by the President from the appropriation "Executive Office of the President—Emergencies (National Defense)." Such payments shall be made without regard to the provisions of (a) Section 3681 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (31 U. S. C. 672), (b) Section 9 of the Act of March 4, 1909, 35 Stat. 1027 (31 U. S. C. 673), and (c) such other laws as the President may hereafter specify.

(5)

Thirty days after the presentation of its final report to the President, the commission shall cease to exist unless the President shall otherwise direct.

HARRY S. TRUMAN.

The White House,
Jan. 23, 1951.

Text of Statement

I have today established a Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights. The commission will be composed of nine members. Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz will serve as chairman.

The commission will consider in all its aspects the question of how this nation can best deal with the problem of protecting its internal security and at the same time maintaining the freedoms of its citizens. It will consider the harm that comes from the wrong kind of action as well as the good that comes from the right kind of action.

The commission will make a thorough examination of the laws, practices and procedures concerning the protection of our nation against treason, espionage, sabotage and other subversive activities, and of the operation of and any need for changes in such laws, practices and procedures. The commission will also consider the methods used by public or private groups for the purpose of protecting us against such activities.

It will consider these matters from the standpoint of protecting both the internal security of our country and the rights of individuals, and will seek the wis-

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Statement on Security and Rights Board

est balance that can be struck between security and freedom. The commission will report its conclusions and recommendations for legislative, administrative or other action it deems appropriate.

I consider the task of this commission to be of extraordinary importance. The world is in the midst of a struggle between freedom and tyranny. The United States is one of the leaders of the free world—not just because we are powerful in material things, but because we have preserved and expanded the freedom of our people. We have built our society in the faith and in the practice of freedom—freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of association and political belief.

Ready to Protect Freedom

We in this country have always been ready to protect our freedom—to protect it against external or internal enemies and to protect it against unwarranted restrictions by government. From time to time in our history we have faced the need to protect our freedom from these different kinds of encroachment.

Each of these occasions has presented our nation with new and often conflicting considerations. To reconcile these considerations, and to find the proper national policy, is always difficult, and is especially so at times, like the present, when our freedom is severely threatened abroad and at home.

Today, we are particularly concerned by the threat to our Government and our national life arising from the activities of the forces of Communist imperialism. In addition to the vigorous action we are taking abroad to meet this threat, we must be sure that our laws and procedures at home are adequate to protect our system of government against unconstitutional attacks and to preserve our national security against treason, espionage, sabotage and other subversive acts designed to weaken or overthrow our Government.

At the same time, we are concerned lest the measures taken to protect us from these dangers infringe the liberties guaranteed by our Constitution and stifle the atmosphere of freedom in which we have so long expressed our thoughts and carried on our daily affairs.

These are problems of momentous importance for our country and its future, and for the future of our leadership in the world. They should be approached in a serious and fair-minded way by all our citizens. We must not let our differences about how to solve these problems degenerate into partisan controversies. We must continue to protect our se-

curity within the framework of our historic liberties, without thought of partisan advantage or political gain.

To keep these great problems from falling into the arena of partisanship, I am appointing this commission of distinguished citizens on a nonpartisan basis. I believe the people of this country will receive from them an authoritative judgment on these problems, based on the facts and formulated in the national interest, with no question of political advantage.

The commission will undoubtedly wish to focus its primary attention on Federal laws and procedures. But I do not believe the commission should limit itself to reviewing Government actions. Instead, I hope it will consider afresh, in all its present-day ramifications, the recurrent question of how a free people protect their society from subversive attack without at the same time destroying their own liberties.

Hopes for Wise Guide Lines

This question is, of course, far broader than the activities of the Federal Government. It concerns state and local governments as well, private groups of all kinds, and citizens in their daily work and in their homes. I hope that the report of this commission will provide guide-lines of sufficiently wide application to be helpful in protecting both internal security and individual rights in every part of our national life.

The field of study for this commission is very complex and far-reaching. Much study will be necessary before a report can be drafted. I am giving instructions that the commission shall have complete freedom to conduct its study as it sees fit. I am asking the commission to make such interim reports as it may deem desirable, and I hope the commission will find it possible to complete its work in a year.

One of the important matters for the commission to consider is the operation of the Government employee loyalty and security programs. I wish to make it clear, however, that this commission is not being established as an appeals tribunal for individual cases.

The commission will be expected to report on the effectiveness and fairness of the Government's loyalty and security programs. In doing this, the commission may wish to inspect individual case files—and it will be authorized to do so whatever extent it may determine to be necessary.

In connection with loyalty and security procedures, and also in considering the operation of such statutes as the Internal Security Act of 1950, the commission will

necessarily be reviewing information of very high security classifications. I am directing the commission therefore, to take appropriate measures to safeguard the security of any classified or confidential information it may wish to examine.

A Special Responsibility

I intend to do everything I can to enable this commission to make a thorough and careful study.

We in the United States have a special responsibility of leadership in these critical times, when free men the world over are strongly resisting the challenge of the Communist drive for world domination. We must guard our freedom well—guard it from armed assault, guard it from subversive infiltration, guard it from internal suppression and the deadly imposition of conformity. For the kind of freedom we have enjoyed in this country has been the shining goal for millions in other lands—and the results of freedom in this country have been the shattering reply to the false claims of Communist imperialism.

If we are to continue growing here at home—if we are to continue leading the world toward peace with freedom and justice—we must both protect the security of our nation and safeguard the freedom of our people.

I know the Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights will undertake its work in full recognition of the immense importance and world-wide significance of its task.

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monopolies" as the primary threat to the freedom of the press.

The much-amended text, finally passed after an all-day debate, was supported by France, Mexico, Ecuador, Cuba, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Philippines. A few of these supporters objected to the four-paragraph text—at least in part—but it was understood that they went along with the majority view since the preamble itself is recognized as a statement of aims and as "a guide" and not as part of the legally binding articles that will follow it in the pact.

The preamble begins by reaffirming the principles in the United Nations Charter and the Human Rights Declaration. It goes on to uphold freedom of information as a "fundamental human right" and an essential factor "in the cause of democracy and peace and for the achievement of political, social, cultural and economic progress."

The controversial paragraph maintains "that in order to achieve these aims the media of information and opinion should be free from pressure or dictation," and it adds that "these media by virtue of their power for influencing public opinion bear great responsibility to the peoples of the world."

The final paragraph of the preamble simply introduces the future treaty as a means of "promoting democratic institutions, friendly relations between states and the peace and welfare of mankind."

For the United States, Carroll Binder, editorial-page editor of The

Minneapolis Tribune, warned the committee that the preamble text was "vague" and likely to lead to "later disputes" as to its meaning.

This view was supported by Jorge Mantilla of Ecuador, who maintained that it was "dangerous" to include in the preamble a reference to "pressure" on the organs of the press and radio without explaining the source of such influence. Such phrases, he held, more properly belong in the articles of the treaty, where they would be carefully spelled out.

The language of the preamble was also criticized by Dr. Maria Z. N. Witteveen of the Netherlands and Hugh Overton of Britain. The British delegate opposed the entire preamble as an ambiguous text.

New Zealand Invites Dulles

WELLINGTON, N. Z., Jan. 23 (AP)—The New Zealand Government has invited United States Ambassador John Foster Dulles here for Japanese peace treaty consultations following his exploratory talks opening in Tokyo this week. If Mr. Dulles accepts he is expected here early next month, External Affairs Minister Frederick Doidge announced today.

Blast at British Dublin Embassy

DUBLIN, Jan. 23 (AP)—Two men hurled a grenade outside the British Embassy tonight. The blast shattered two windows in the building and damaged an automobile. No one was injured. The men escaped.

NEW GUINEA VOLCANO BLOWS PART OF TOP

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan. 23 (AP)—Government authorities said tonight more than 3,000 Papuan natives and thirty-five Europeans probably died in the volcanic flames and convulsions of New Guinea's "spirit" mountain.

The mountain is Mount Lamington, 80 miles northeast of Port Moresby. It continued to gush smoke and flame today after six explosions, from Thursday to Sunday, had blown off its entire north face and seared the jungle for 10 miles around.

Australia officials gave this summary of possibly the greatest natural disaster in this part of the world in this century:

The native death toll probably will exceed 3,000, and casualties might reach 4,000.

No hope was held for the survival of thirty-five missing Europeans among the sixty-eight missionaries, traders and officials in the area.

Twenty villages had been abandoned and devastated.

Despite ominous rumbles and continued belching of smoke and flame from cavernous holes torn in the mountainside, Government vulcanologists predicted, after an air inspection, that there would be no more major eruptions at least for a week. The entire area was closed to entry by a Government proclamation. The dead were being buried where they were found.